Installation of Atomic power plants MAPP-I and II

2353. SHRI MAHENDRA PRASAD:
SHRI MURLIDHAR CHANDRAKANT BHANDARE:

Will the PRIME MINISER be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that the two Madras Atomic Power Plants MAPP-I and MAPP-II were commissioned at a cost of around 30 per cent more of the original estimated cost;

(b) if so, how much of the cost escalation was attributed to the delay in implementing the schemes and how much of it was due to delay in the action taken by the State Government in regard thereto; and

(c) how far the electricity supply rates from these plants are commensurate with the cost of the plants and the cost of working?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY AND THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENTS OF OCEAN DEVELOPMENT, ATOMIC ENERGY, ELECTRONICS AND SPACE (SHRI K. R. NARAYANAN): (a) No, Sir, Against the original sanctioned cost of Rs. 61.78 crores and Rs. 70.63 crores, the Units I and II of Madras Atomic Power Station were completed at costs of Rs. 118.73 crores and 127.04 crores respectively.

(b) There has been no increase in cost which is attributable to the delay in action taken by the State Government.

(c) The tariff rates for MAPS as for all other nuclear power stations in the country provide for a return of 12 per cent on investment in these stations in addition to recovering cost of the plants (through depreciation) and operating costs.

Re-introduction of income tax for foreign nationals in Saudi Arabia

2354. SHRI V. NARAYANASAMY: Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that the Saudi Arabian Government is reintroducing income-tax for all foreign nationals and companies;

(b) whether it is a fact that the said introduction of income tax affects largely the Indian population which is in Saudi Arabia and whether any representation has been received by Government to take up the issue with the Saudi Arabian Government; and

(c) if so, what steps Government have taken in persuading the Saudi Arabian Government to cancel the tax proposal against foreign nationals, especially, Indians?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRI K. NATWAR SINGH): No, Sir. The Saudi Government's decision of December 30, 1987 to re-introduce income tax on all foreign nationals effective from January 1988 was rescinded by the King through a Royal Decree two days later.

(b) Yes, Sir. Introduction of income tax would have affected not only the Indian workers in Saudi Arabia but the entire expatriate community in the Kingdom.

(c) Does not arise.

Public Sector Employees out of the Central Vigilance Commission's purview

2355. SHRI PARVATHANENI UPENDRA: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that the Central Vigilance Commission has condemned Government's decision to take public sector employee out of